Hyderabad, British India, and the World

This rich examination of the formally autonomous state of Hyderabad in a global comparative framework challenges the idea of the dominant British Raj as the sole sovereign power in the late colonial period. Beverley argues that Hyderabad’s position as a subordinate yet sovereign “minor state” was not just a legal formality, but that, in exercising the right to internal self-government and acting as a conduit for the regeneration of transnational Muslim intellectual and political networks, Hyderabad was indicative of the fragmentation of sovereignty between multiple political entities amidst empires. By exploring connections with the Muslim world beyond South Asia, law and policy administration along frontiers with the colonial state and urban planning in expanding Hyderabad City, Beverley presents Hyderabad as a locus for experimentation in global and regional forms of political modernity. Through state-level consideration and social analysis, Beverley recasts the political geography of late imperialism and historicizes Muslim political modernity in South Asia and beyond.

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Hyderabad, British India, and the World

*Muslim Networks and Minor Sovereignty, c. 1850–1950*

Eric Lewis Beverley
For Regina and Yahima Regina
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Abbreviations

APHB  Andhra Pradesh Housing Board
CIB   City Improvement Board (Hyderabad)
CTA   Criminal Tribes Act (1860)
EIC   East India Company
FMS   Federated Malay States
FOA   Fugitive Offenders Act (1881)
HSFM  The Hyderabad Scarcity and Famine Manual (1938)
IHC   International Historical Congress
ITPI  Institute of Town Planners, India
MCH   Municipal Corporation (Hyderabad)
MH    Model House
MIM   Majlis-i Ittihad al-Muslimin
RHFHHND Report on the History of the Famine in His Highness the
          Nizam’s Domains in 1876/77, 1877/78 (1879)
RISC  Report of the Indian States Commission
RPHCIB Hyderabad, City Improvement Board, Report on the
          Progress of the Hyderabad City Improvement Board for the
          Years 1322–1327 Fasl (1914–1919 A.D.) (Hyderabad:
          Government Central Press, 1919)
SC&D  Slum Clearance and Development
T&D   Thagi and Dakaiti Department
TIT   Town Improvement Trust (Secunderabad)
TP    Town Planning in H.E.H. the Nizam’s Dominions (1944)
TPD   Town Planning Department
UMS   Unfederated Malay States
UN    United Nations
UNSC  United Nations Security Council
Map 1 South Asian minor states and British Indian territories prior to 1947.
Map 2 Hyderabad State within South Asia, c. 1900.